

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /105 W
----- 101642

R 141718Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7795

CINCUSNAVEUR

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0293

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GI, UK, SP

SUBJECT: LITTLE ROCK VISIT TO GIBRALTAR

REF A. USNLO GIBRALTAR 112222Z OF JAN 1974. B. MADRID 1900
OF MAY 1971 C. MADRID 895 OF FEB 1973

1. ALTHOUGH ACTIVITIES OF COMSIXFLT AT GIBRALTAR JAN 17
PROPOSED REF A. DO NOT SEEM TO DEVIATE GREATLY FROM FLAG SHIP
VISIT PRACTICES DURING PAST SEVERAL YEARS, WE SHOULD BE
PREPARED FOR SPANISH PROTEST. GOS REACTION TO VISIT MAY
GIVE SOME INDICATION AS TO LINE NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT
PLANS TO TAKE ON GIBRALTAR. IF PAST POLICIES ARE CONTINUED
GOS MAY TAKE PARTICULAR NOTE OF A. SEPARATE EXCHANGE OF SALUTES
BETWEEN COMSIXFLT AND FLAG OFFICER GIBRALTAR FOLLOWING NATIONAL
SALUTES; B. COMSIXFLT'S CALL ON CHIEF MINISTER HASSAN;
AND C. AND EXTENSIVE SOCIAL PROGRAM.

2. OVERALL SOCIAL CHARACTER OF VISIT MAY
STIMULATE GOS TO REVIVE ARGUMENT PRESENTED IN FOREIGN
MINISTER LOPEZ BRAVO'S 1971 LETTER OF COMPLAINT (REF B)
TO EFFECT THAT "... VISITS ACCOMPANIED BY SOCIAL DISPLAYS
OR MESSAGES OF SOLIDARITY CAUSE SAME EFFECT AS MASSIVE
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VISITS, THAT IS, THEY CAN BE INTERPRETED AS OFFICIAL

POLITICAL BACKING OF US FOR COLONIAL STATUS OF STRONG-
HOLD AND CONFUSE PUBLIC OPINION."

3. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT MFA EXPRESSED PARTICULAR
IRRITATION AT CALL ON CHIEF MINISTER OF GIBRALTAR
DURING VISIT OF USN SHIP THERE ABOUT A YEAR AGO (REF C.)

4. IN REPLYING TO EXPECTED SPANISH PROTESTATIONS, WE
WOULD LIKE BE ABLE TO STATE THAT USS LITTLE ROCK VISIT
JAN 17-19 FOLLOWED SAME PATTERN AND PROCEDURES AS
PREVIOUS SUCH VISITS TO GIBRALTAR. WOULD APPRECIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR CONFIRMATION THAT THIS IS THE CASE.
RIVERO

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